ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A system integrated circuit prevents a storage region of confidential data that has been read from a memory device from being revealed by tracing the operation of an internal CPU. The confidential data is stored in a secondary memory and is used by the CPU. The confidential data is read from the secondary memory to a primary memory at initialization of an apparatus in which the system integrated circuit is incorporated. Specifically, an initial-state management unit (15) reads the confidential data from the memory devices (101 or 111), and stores it into one of storage regions in the primary memory at the initialization of the apparatus. The initial-state management unit (15) then instructs the CPU to start its operation. Even if thorough reverse analysis is performed on the operation of the CPU, the storage region of the confidential data is not revealed.